

ADMINISTRATIVE ADULT

Idaho EMS Guideline
Administrative

REFUSAL OF CARE / CONSENT TO TREAT

The following guideline is to be used by EMS Providers any time an adult patient refuses patient care or transport:

1. For a patient declaring no need for emergency medical care, where no patient care has occurred and no injuries, mechanism of injury or illness is obvious, do not treat patient.
2. For a patient declaring no need for emergency medical care, where patient care has already begun, and the EMT suspects injury or illness, proceed with the following:
 - For the alert, conscious, ill, or injured patient who requests no transport or further treatment, the EMS Provider shall explain risks of refusal and benefits of transport. Should the patient continue to refuse, the EMS Provider shall contact medical control and try to establish communication between the patient and physician.
 - The EMS Provider shall accept the right of the patient to refuse treatment and transport and document informed refusal.
 - The EMS Provider shall document general patient status including observation about patient competence.
3. For a patient unable to declare his or her own decision due to diminished consciousness or other incapacitation (alcohol, drugs or other) and where care is refused:
 - The EMS Provider will contact on-line medical control at the receiving hospital and attempt to establish communication among the EMS Provider, medical control, and family member(s). After discussion, the EMS Provider will follow the orders of the on-line medical control physician.
 - The EMS Provider shall document the general patient status, including observation about patient competence and directions received from medical control.
 - Exceptions to the right to refuse may be altered mental status due to alcohol or drug intoxication or under arrest by police. Confer with local law enforcement.

39-4302. PERSONS WHO MAY CONSENT TO THEIR OWN CARE. Any person of ordinary intelligence and awareness sufficient for him or her generally to comprehend the need for, the nature of and the significant risks ordinarily inherent in any contemplated hospital, medical, dental or surgical care, treatment or procedure is competent to consent thereto on his own behalf. Any physician, dentist, hospital or other duly authorized person may provide such health care and services in reliance upon such a consent if the consenting person appears to the physician or dentist securing the consent to possess such requisite intelligence and awareness at the time of giving it.

The Idaho EMS Bureau has taken extreme caution to ensure all information is accurate and in accordance with professional standards in effect at the time of publication. This guideline is for reference and may be modified at the discretion of the EMS Medical Director. It is recommended that care be based on the patient's clinical presentation and on authorized policies and guidelines.